

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ITALIAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. DC CISCUS PARLIAMENTARY STRATEGY AND PARTY POLICY:

BEGINNING WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY DC DEPUTY SECRETARY GALLONI AND A DISCUSSION LED BY DC PARLIAMENTARY GROUP HEADS BARTOLOMEI AND PICCOLI, THE DC PARLIAMENTARY SEMINARS OPENED AT EUR'S CONGRESS PALACE SEPTEMBER 22. THE MEETINGS (ROUND-TABLES AND EIGHT SEMINARS ON SUCH BROAD SUBJECTS AS "FOREIGN AFFAIRS", "AGRICULTURE," "THE ECONOMY" ETC) ARE INTENDED TO CLARIFY THE PARTY'S POLICIES AND LEGISLATIVE STRATEGY IN THE NEW SESSION OF PARLIAMENT WHICH OPENS SEPTEMBER 28. THEY WILL ALSO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR AN AIRING OF THE VIEWS OF THE VARIOUS FACTIONS ON PROBLEMS OF PARTY ORGANIZATION, REFORM, RENEWAL, AND POLICY DIRECTION IN THE POST-ELECTION SITUATION. THE SEMINARS WILL CONCLUDE ON SATURDAY MORNING SEPT. 25 WITH SPEECHES BY PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI AND PARTY SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI.

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2. PCI KEEPS UP PRESSURE ON ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT:

REFLECTING IMPATIENCE WITH THE CONTINUED EXCLUSION OF THE PCI FROM DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT, PCI LEADER GIORGIO AMENDOLA PUT THE ANDREOTTI MINORITY GOVERNMENT ON NOTICE THAT ITS LIFE WAS LIMITED AND IT COULD NOT COUNT INDEFINITELY ON PCI SUPPORT (THROUGH ABSTENTIONS). IN AN INTERVIEW IN POLITICA ED ECONOMIA MAGAZINE, AMENDOLA SAID THAT THE DC STILL DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF THE JUNE ELECTIONS--THAT THE PCI CAN NO LONGER BE RELEGATED TO A PRECONCEIVED OPPOSITION ROLE. WHILE THE PCI HAS NOW ENTERED "THE AREA OF GOVERNMENT," IT MUST NOW ASSUME THE "DIRECT RESPONSIBILITIES" OF GOVERNMENT (IE - MINISTERIAL POSITIONS). AMENDOLA SAID THAT DC LEADERS WHO HOPED TO KEEP THE PCI OUT OF GOVERNMENT BY WAITING FOR EVENTS FAVORABLE TO THE RIGHT SUCH AS AN ECONOMIC REVIVAL AND THE RESULTS OF THE US AND FRG ELECTIONS WERE MERELY "MYOPIC." ONLY AN EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT OF "DEMOCRATIC UNITY" CAN PROVIDE THE "TRUE NATIONAL MOBILIZATION" THAT THE PRESENT CRISIS REQUIRES.

3. PCI SUBMITS DRAFT ABORTION LEGISLATION. THE ABORTION ISSUE IS AGAIN IN THE HEADLINES. ALTHOUGH DRAFT ABORTION LAWS HAVE ALREADY BEEN RESUBMITTED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER BY THE PSI, PSDI, PLI AND RADICALS, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE GRABBED MOST OF THE PUBLICITY. THE PCI PROPOSAL, SUBMITTED SEPT. 22, IS REPORTEDLY ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THE PCI DRAFT WHICH HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO THE LAST LEGISLATURE. THE ONLY NEW ELEMENT ALLOWS THE WOMAN (AFTER CONSULTATION WITH A DOCTOR) TO MAKE THE ULTIMATE DECISION WITHIN THE CONDITIONS AND 90-DAY TIME FRAME SPECIFIED IN THE DRAFT PROPOSAL. THE PCI IS TAKING SOMETHING OF A BEATING ON THE ABORTION ISSUE FROM THE RADICAL LEFT PARTIES FOR ALLEGEDLY PRESENTING A MODERATE PROPOSAL WHICH SMACKS OF A PRIOR UNDERSTANDING WITH THE DC. THE LATTER PARTY HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER IT WILL PRESENT A DRAFT ABORTION LAW OF ITS OWN. THE VATICAN HAS ALSO ENTERED THE FRAY WITH AN APPEAL BY ROME'S CARDINAL POLETTI TO CATHOLICS (AND BY EXTENSION, THE DC) TO COMBAT ABORTION LEGISLATION BY EXERCISING THEIR "RIGHT OF RESPONSIBLE INTERVENTION" TO ASSURE THAT THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES DO NOT ACCEPT COMPROMISES WITH "THE CHRISTIAN VISION OF SOCIAL AND CIVIL LIFE."

4. LOCKHEED INQUIRY BUMPS ALONG: AFTER HAVING ANNOUNCED ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTENTION TO PURSUE AN AMBITIOUS WORK SCHEDULE, THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY COMMISSION HAS GOTTEN OFF TO A SLOW START. ITS SESSION ON SEPTEMBER 21 ALMOST DID NOT OCCUR DUE TO AN INITIAL ABSENCE OF A QUORUM, AND SESSIONS FOR NEXT WEEK MAY ALSO BE CANCELLED DUE TO MEMBERS' ABSENCES. NEITHER THE DC NOR THE PCI RAPPORTEURS WERE PREPARED SUBSTANTIVELY YESTERDAY TO DISCUSS THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST PM ANDREOTTI CONTAINED IN THE L'ESPRESSO DOCUMENTS. THE ONLY SPUR TOWARD GREATER ACTIVITY HAS COME FROM THE SOCIALIST

SIDE, WITH PSI COMMITTEE MEMBER FELISETTI SUGGESTING THAT THE
COMMITTEE SHOULD MOVE TO SECURE THE TESTIMONY OF LOCKHEED
OFFICIAL CARL KOTCHIAN THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF LETTERS ROGATORY.
NO ONE ELSE HAS SHOWN ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS IDEA. VOLPE

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